

1   **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

2   1.    An excavation fluid composition useful for enlarging a cavity in the earth  
3   comprising a synthetic polymer and sodium silicate, said composition being formulated  
4   so as to enable the fluid in contact with unstable or sandy soils in the selected areas of the  
5   excavation to react and form silicate-based derivatives with lesser solubility, and  
6   movement and thus improve soil stability at the excavation wall.

7  
8   2.    The excavation fluid composition of claim 1 further comprising an alkalinity  
9   source, said alkalinity source being present from 0.01% to 10.0% by weight of the  
10   excavation fluid.

11  
12   3.    The excavation fluid composition of claim 1 wherein said synthetic polymer  
13   comprises one or more monomers selected from:

14       a.    acrylamide, methacrylamide, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid,  
15              fumaric acid;

16       b.    maleic anhydride, methacrylic anhydride, itaconic acid, acrylic acid  
17              dimer(BCEA), M-isopropenylbenzyl dimethyl isocyanate and the  
18              nonionic associative monomer derivatives, esters or urethane, so  
19              produced containing nonionic surfactant starting materials prepared  
20              from ethylene oxide and/or, propylene oxide and/or, butylene oxide  
21              and/or C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> alkyl alcohols and/or C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> alkyl phenols;

22       c.    itaconic acid, vinylsulfonic acid, styrene sulfonic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-  
23              methylpropane sulfonic acid, methallylsulfonic acid, vinyl acetic acid,  
24              4- methylpentenoic acid, allylacetic acid, B-hydroxyethylacrylate, x-  
25              haloacrylic acid;

26  
27       d.    M- isopropenylbenzyl dimethyl isocyanate and its nonionic derivatives  
28              prepared from alkyl alcohols;

29       e.    methylenebisacrylamide, N-methylol acrylamide, triallyl cyanurate, vinyl  
30              crotonate, divinylbenzene, allyl methacrylate;

- 1 f acrylic acid esters of sucrose, hexallyl sucrose, trimethylolpropane  
2 triacrylate, ethylene glycol diacrylate, diethylene glycol diacrylate,  
3 ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, and the like;
- 4 g. methacrylic anhydride esters or maleic anhydride esters of sucrose,  
5 sorbitol, sorbitol esters with fatty acids;
- 6 h. guar gum, starch, ethylated starch, oxidized starch, starch fatty acid esters,  
7 dodecylsuccinic anhydride modified starch, agar gum, xanthan gum,  
8 arabic gum or galacto-mannin derivatives prepared from methacrylic  
9 anhydride or maleic anhydride or M-isopropenylbenzyl dimethyl  
10 isocyanate resulting in hybrid monomers;
- 11 i. vinyl acetate, N-vinyl formamide, N-vinyl acetamide, N-vinyl pyrrolidone,  
12 styrene, butadiene, isoprene, chloro-butadiene, vinyl chloride,  
13 vinylidene chloride, C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> acrylate and methacrylate esters;
- 14 j. methacryloxyethyl dimethylamine, methacrylamido propyl  
15 dimethylamine, dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride, diethyl diallyl  
16 ammonium chloride, and their methyl sulfate and methyl chloride  
17 derivatives and water soluble or dispersible salts and combinations  
18 thereof.

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20 5. A method of stabilizing the wall of an earthen excavation, said method  
21 comprising:

22 placing in said earthen excavation a digging fluid, said digging fluid comprising a  
23 polymer and sodium silicate, said composition being formulated so as to enable the fluid  
24 in contact with unstable or sandy soils in the selected areas of the excavation to react and  
25 form silicate-based derivatives with lesser solubility, and movement and thus improve  
26 soil stability at the excavation wall.

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28 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said digging fluid further comprises an alkalinity  
29 source, said alkalinity source being present from 0.01% to 10.0% by weight of the  
30 excavation fluid.

- 1  
2 7. The method of claim 5 wherein said polymer comprises one or more monomers  
3 selected from:
- 4 a. acrylamide, methacrylamide, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid,  
5 fumaric acid;
  - 6 b. maleic anhydride, methacrylic anhydride, itaconic acid, acrylic acid  
7 dimer(BCEA), M-isopropenylbenzyl dimethyl isocyanate and the  
8 nonionic associative monomer derivatives, esters or urethane, so  
9 produced containing nonionic surfactant starting materials prepared  
10 from ethylene oxide and/or, propylene oxide and/or, butylene oxide  
11 and/or C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> alkyl alcohols and/or C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> alkyl phenols;
  - 12 c. itaconic acid, vinylsulfonic acid, styrene sulfonic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-  
13 methylpropane sulfonic acid, methallylsulfonic acid, vinyl acetic acid,  
14 4- methylpentenoic acid, allylcelic acid, B-hydroxyethylacrylate, x-  
15 haloacrylic acid;
  - 16 d. M- isopropenylbenzyl dimethyl isocyanate and its nonionic derivatives  
17 prepared from alkyl alcohols;
  - 18 e. methylenebisacrylamide, N-methylol acrylamide, triallyl cyanurate, vinyl  
19 crotonate, divinylbenzene, allyl methacrylate;
  - 20 f. acrylic acid esters of sucrose, hexallyl sucrose, trimethylolpropane  
21 triacrylate, ethylene glycol diacrylate, diethylene glycol diacrylate,  
22 ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, and the like;
  - 23 g. methacrylic anhydride esters or maleic anhydride esters of sucrose,  
24 sorbitol, sorbitol esters with fatty acids;
  - 25 h. guar gum, starch, ethylated starch, oxidized starch, starch fatty acid esters,  
26 dodecylsuccinic anhydride modified starch, agar gum, xanthan gum,  
27 arabic gum or galacto-mannin derivatives prepared from methacrylic  
28 anhydride or maleic anhydride or M-isopropenylbenzyl dimethyl  
29 isocyanate resulting in hybrid monomers;

- 1 i. vinyl acetate, N-vinyl formamide, N-vinyl acetamide, N-vinyl pyrrolidone,  
2 styrene, butadiene, isoprene, chloro-butadiene, vinyl chloride,  
3 vinylidene chloride, C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> acrylate and methacrylate esters;  
4 j. methacryloxyethyl dimethylamine, methacrylamido propyl  
5 dimethylamine, dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride, diethyl diallyl  
6 ammonium chloride, and their methyl sulfate and methyl chloride  
7 derivatives and water soluble or dispersible salts and combinations  
8 thereof.

9  
10 8. The method of claim 5 wherein said digging fluid comprises:

- 11 a. a synthetic polymer,  
12 b. sodium silicate being 0.1% to 50.0% of the fluid composition  
13 c. sodium hydroxide being 0.01% to 10.0% of the fluid composition.  
14

15 9. A process of improving boreholes, trenches or other excavations' dimensional  
16 stability by including sodium, potassium or other soluble silicate into a mixture of water,  
17 soils, sands and a synthetic polymer water based fluid during excavation and  
18 enlargement.  
19

20 10. The process of claim 9 where the drilling fluid is a synthetic polymer fluid  
21 between the pH of 4 and 13.  
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23 11. The process of claim 9, wherein the mixed fluid in the excavation , in a range of  
24 density of 1.01, as with fresh polymer fluid prior to contacting the excavation, up to 1.20  
25 g/cc after the silicate added fluid has reacted with the slurry system in the active  
26 excavation cavity.  
27

28 12. The process of claim 9, wherein the silicates are at a mole ratio of SiO<sub>2</sub> to M<sub>2</sub>O of  
29 1:1 to 4:1, respectively wherein M is an alkali metal.  
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13. The process of claim 9, wherein the polymer fluid is a synthetic polymer or polymers based fluid containing at least one polymer prepared from the list of monomers: acrylamide, methacrylamide, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid; maleic anhydride, methacrylic anhydride, itaconic acid, acrylic acid dimer(BCEA), M-isopropenylbenzyl dimethyl isocyanate and the nonionic associative monomer derivatives, esters or urethane, so produced containing nonionic surfactant starting materials prepared from ethylene oxide and/or, propylene oxide and/or, butylene oxide and/or C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> alkyl alcohols and/or C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>12</sub> alkyl phenols; itaconic acid, vinylsulfonic acid, styrene sulfonic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid, methallylsulfonic acid, vinyl acetic acid, 4-methylpentenoic acid, allylacetic acid, B-hydroxyethylacrylate, x-haloacrylic acid; M- isopropenylbenzyl dimethyl isocyanate and its nonionic derivatives prepared from alkyl alcohols; methylenebisacrylamide, N-methylol acrylamide, triallyl cyanurate, vinyl crotonate, divinylbenzene, allyl methacrylate; acrylic acid esters of sucrose, hexallyl sucrose, trimethylolpropane triacrylate, ethylene glycol diacrylate, diethylene glycol diacrylate, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, and the like; methacrylic anhydride esters or maleic anhydride esters of sucrose, sorbitol, sorbitol esters with fatty acids; guar gum, starch, ethylated starch, oxidized starch, starch fatty acid esters, dodecylsuccinic anhydride modified starch, agar gum, xanthan gum, arabic gum or galacto-mannin derivatives prepared from methacrylic anhydride or maleic anhydride or M-isopropenylbenzyl dimethyl isocyanate resulting in hybrid monomers; vinyl acetate, N-vinyl formamide, N-vinyl acetamide,, N-vinyl pyrrolidone, styrene, butadiene, isoprene, chloro-butadiene, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> acrylate and methacrylate esters; methacryloxyethyl dimethylamine, methacrylamido propyl dimethylamine, dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride, diethyl diallyl ammonium chloride, and their methyl sulfate and methyl chloride derivatives and water soluble or dispersible salts and combinations thereof.

14. The process of claim 9, wherein the reaction of the silicate salts with the synthetic polymer fluid, soils, sands and other materials in the excavation cavity to form tackified

1 masses which assist in the creation of a superior fluid loss barrier at the formation  
2 interface.

3  
4 15. The process in claim 9, wherein the included silicate salts assist in the dispersion  
5 and carrying of colloids within the polymer slurry thus assisting in increasing the specific  
6 gravity of the slurry increased solids dispersion throughout the active synthetic polymer  
7 slurry.

8  
9 16. The process of claim 9, wherein the creation of semi-solid tackified masses and  
10 the improvement in the creation of a pressure transfer barrier between and slightly within  
11 the formation and the slurry resulting in improved fluid loss control combined with the  
12 increased differential pressure within the slurry causing superior excavation side wall  
13 support a more gauge and superior performing foundation element is created.

14  
15 17. (Amended) An anhydrous acid solidification mixture comprising:

- 16 a. a structural material, said structural material being used to provide  
17 stability, strength, support, foundation, or volume to the solidification  
18 mixture and being selected from: sands, soils, clays, pebbles, cobbles,  
19 marble, granite, stones, gravel, rocks, bentonite, cement, polymer  
20 fibers, sandstone and combinations thereof,
- 21 b. a polymer component;
- 22 c. an accelerator compound, said accelerator compound being selected from  
23 chemicals capable of producing carbon dioxide in acidic environments,  
24 chemicals capable of producing chlorine gas in acidic conditions,  
25 inorganic chloride salts, inorganic sulfate and inorganic sulfite salts;  
26 an acidic component, said acidic component being selected from solid  
27 chemicals between the pH of 4 and 13; and
- 28 e. a silicate component said silicate component being selected from sodium  
29 orthosilicate, sesquisilicate, metasilicate, disilicate and combinations  
30 thereof.

1 18. The anhydrous acid solidification mixture of claim 16 wherein said accelerator  
2 compound is selected from the group consisting of potassium and sodium salts of  
3 hydrogen carbonate, potassium and sodium salts of carbonate, sodium and potassium  
4 hypochlorite, and combinations thereof, and wherein said acidic components is selected  
5 from the group consisting of citric acid, the salts of citric acid, sulamic acid, and  
6 combinations thereof.

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